

Culture • Lifestyle • Faces

FALL/WINTER
2019-2020

ISLAND T ENTERTAINMENT TRENDS






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L'AQUILA

RESIDENCES

Architect Arne Jacobsen said, “If a building becomes architecture, then it is art.” In the history of buildings, many dreamers have shared the innate desire to leave a mark, to make a difference, from the pharaohs of Egypt to the lovesick Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal.

While we don't have many iconic buildings in Aruba, those that we have, we cherish—the California Lighthouse, the two water towers in Oranjestad and San Nicolas, and a few other monuments under the umbrella of the Monuments Fund. All that energy invested in conservation makes it clear that we care about buildings.

And it is also obvious that developers behind L'Aquila Residences cares about architecture.

When you pick up the brochure of his beautiful upcoming condo complex on Eagle Beach, L'Aquila Residences, you realize he cares about the aesthetics of the architecture, inspired by the wings of an eagle (l'aquila means “the eagle” in Italian). The architectural renderings, he explains, have already won international recognition for sustainability and innovations.

L'Aquila Residences is a modernistic, seven-story building with clean, symmetric lines, hugged by a honeycomb fence with both textured and smooth surfaces. The building in turn embraces a pool shaped like a stealth aircraft or a bird, and CEO ENG. Gabriel Donaldi explains that between the energy-conserving ICF construction and the

solar panels, his building represents the latest smart technologies.

Donadi wants to create a lasting architectural impression where function meets efficient construction and luxury finishes in 80 spacious condo apartments over five stylish floors.

Visit him at Schotlandstraat 37, Oranjestad, Aruba, for more information.

From the L'Aquila Residences website:

“L'Aquila Residences is an innovative project whose design was conceived under the scheme of a residential building that marks a before and after in the history of Aruba.”

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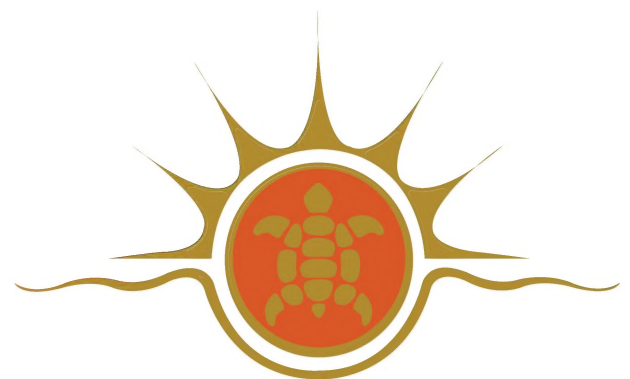


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Our Front COVER

Photographed by Steve Keith and shot on location at Mira Solo Bar at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort. Dress available at T.H. Palm & Company. Jewelry and clutch purse available at Gandelman. See page 18 for details.



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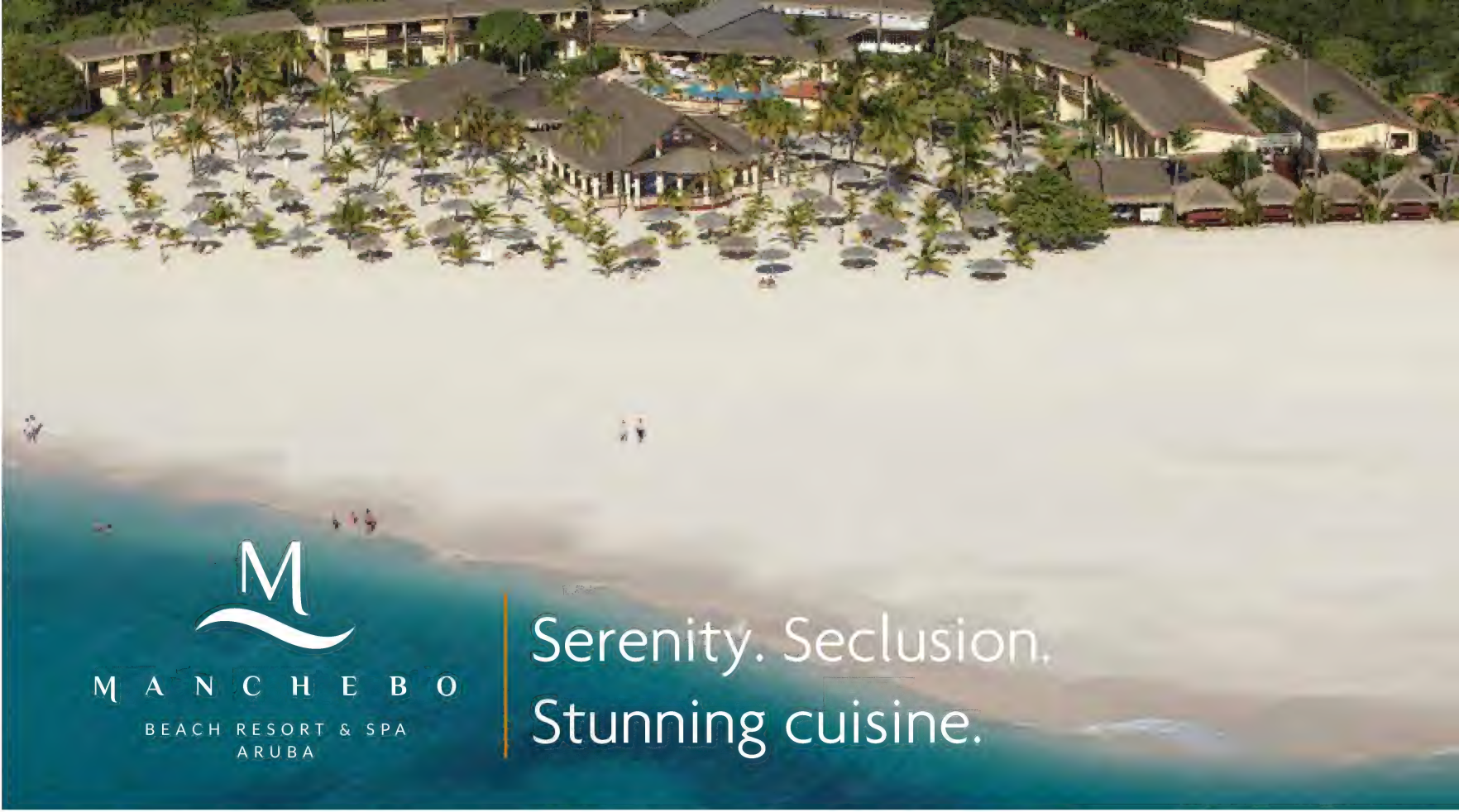
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#ARUBAPROMISE

Add Some Island Glam to Your Vacation Wardrobe

Art Direction by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith

A

dd a touch of island glam to your vacation fashions with dresses and accessories that can take you from the beach bar to a night of elegant dining or dancing in the clubs. From the casually elegant selections at T.H. Palm & Company to the chic and whimsical beach fashions at The Juggling Fish and The Juggling Fish Swimwear, the latest in island fashions are just steps away from your hotel.

To accessorize our looks, we went to the professionals at Gandelman, the island's iconic jewelry retailer for quality, high-end brands, including Bvlgari, David Yurman, and Pesavento.

T

Hair & makeup by Indulgence by the Sea Salon (see Buyer's Guide for more information).



*B.zero1 earrings, bracelet & ring
and Bulgari Bulgari bracelets
with black onyx by Bulgari
Serpenti cat-eye Bulgari sunglasses
Bulgari Bulgari wallet by Bulgari
Shot on location at Hilton Aruba Caribbean
Resort & Casino*



*Bulgari Bulgari earrings and bracelet
with malachite by Bulgari
B.zero1 ring by Bulgari
Serpenti watch in 18kt rose gold with
double-spiral bracelet
in green karung by Bulgari
Serpenti cat-eye Bulgari sunglasses
Shot on location at Hilton Aruba
Caribbean Resort & Casino*



*Cable Classics hoop earrings by David Yurman
Waverly, Cable Classics & Madison chain
bracelets by David Yurman
Shot on location at Hilton Aruba
Caribbean Resort & Casino*

*Slax fringe earrings by David Yurman
Solari and Cable Classics bracelets in turquoise
and lapis lazuli by David Yurman
Shot on location at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba*



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*Stax fringe earrings by David Yurman
Solari and Cable Classics bracelets with pearls, lapis
lazuli, and bonded gold by David Yurman
Shot on location at Hilton Aruba
Caribbean Resort & Casino.*

*Cable Classics hoop earrings in gold by David Yurman
Solari bracelet with pearls & Petite Precious cable
bracelet in gold by David Yurman
Shot on location at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba*



*Large DNA spring hoop earrings,
bracelet & necklace by Pesavento
Shot on location at
The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba*





*Serpenti Spiga single-spiral watch in white ceramic & 18kt rose gold with diamonds by Bulgari
B.zero1 small hoop earrings and ring by Bulgari
Bulgari Bulgari necklace and bracelet with pavé diamonds by Bulgari
Serpenti cat-eye sunglasses by Bulgari
Shot on location at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino*

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and blue eyes is sitting on a dark wicker lounge chair with a white cushion. She is wearing a blue, sleeveless, knee-length dress with a gathered waist and a colorful floral embroidery pattern at the hem. She is also wearing large gold drop earrings, a wide silver cuff bracelet with diamonds, and a wide silver ring with diamonds. The background is a sandy beach with some greenery and a blue object in the distance.

*Wellesley link drop earrings with 18kt gold by
David Yurman
Stax wide cuff bracelet with diamonds,
29.5mm, by David Yurman
Stax wide ring with diamonds, 16mm, by
David Yurman
Shot on location at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba*

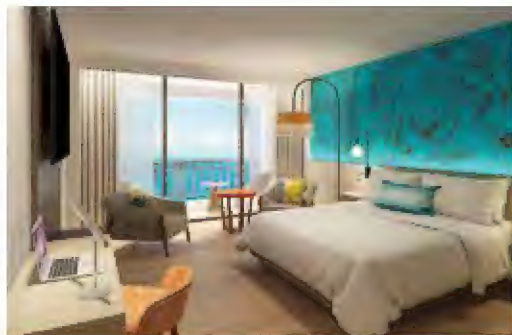


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*Bel Aire chain bracelet & necklace in turquoise, hot pink & yellow with 14kt yellow gold accent by David Yurman
Solari bracelets in turquoise and lapis lazuli by David Yurman
Shot on location at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba*

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*Novella chain drop earrings in 18kt
yellow gold with lolite*
*Novella three-stone bracelet in 18kt yellow
gold with lolite and green tourmaline*
*Stax chain link bracelet with diamonds in
18kt yellow gold*
*Novella three-stone ring in 18kt yellow gold
with blue topaz and tanzanite*
*Novella pendant in 18kt yellow gold with
Madeira citrine and diamonds on faceted
chain necklace*
All pieces by David Yurman

Buyer's Guide



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Boardwalk Boutique Hotel

Adding new casitas, a second pool, and amenities in November 2019

Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, a family-run hotel set on the lush and secluded grounds of a historic coconut plantation and just a short stroll from famed Palm Beach, is officially reopening in November 2019. The hotel, now celebrating 30 years, is adding 32 new casitas, a second pool, a fitness & spa facility, and on-trend food and beverage offerings. The property's existing 14 spacious casitas were recently refreshed and refurbished in anticipation of the reopening.

The design and architecture of the new addition reflect the barefoot luxury guests have come to love at Boardwalk. Each charming new casita, with a seamless indoor-to-outdoor transition, features unique





characteristics and a well-thought-out aesthetic. Guests can stay in the highly popular, oversized one- and two-bedroom casitas; various intimate suites; a stand-alone villa with a private plunge pool; a two-story, palapa-style lodge offering stunning sea views; and four coco casitas featuring one-of-a-kind, hand-painted murals depicting Aruba's local flora and fauna, as well as outdoor showers just off of the indoor bathrooms.

Boardwalk's signature patios, barbecue grills, and hammocks are featured with every casita, as well as large living spaces and fully equipped, modern kitchens or kitchenettes. The addition of 32 new casitas extends the Boardwalk's lush coco oasis, adding more secluded outdoor areas for reading and relaxation, and a second pool oasis with overwater hammocks ideal for embracing the Caribbean island lifestyle.


Maintaining an eco-friendly approach and minimizing its carbon footprint with solar panels, double-glassed windows and doors, ultra-efficient energy management systems, and 100% LED lighting are some of the measures that Boardwalk has taken as part of the property update.



HOTEL HIGHLIGHT

While Boardwalk Boutique Hotel transports guests to a hidden paradise that feels worlds away, guests will find dining, shopping, and entertainment just steps away on famed Palm Beach. The hotel's dedicated beach area, recently expanded and more spacious, is easily accessible by a new complimentary shuttle service. Beach service includes complimentary use of palapas and beach beds, as well as food and beverage service.

Consistently the #2-rated hotel on Aruba on TripAdvisor, the boutique resort embodies a rare, authentic sense of place, effortlessly synergizing a laid-back island lifestyle with exceptional service and dedicated attention to detail offered by the Boardwalk team, led by local owners and operators, Aruban-born twin sisters Kimberly and Stephanie.

Be sure to follow the exciting updates of Boardwalk on Instagram at @boardwalkhotelaruba, and find complete information and booking on www.boardwalkaruba.com. 



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ARUBA'S BEST BURGERS



Text by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith

Where's the beef? Our companion blog, *When in Aruba* (www.wheninaruba.com), asked readers who serves the best burger on the island, and several hundred locals and loyal Aruba visitors chimed in with their votes. More than a dozen restaurants were mentioned, but we narrowed them down to the top five. Grab a napkin (or a few!) and pull up a chair at one of these spots for a bit of burger heaven.

Alfie's in Aruba

Run by Canadians Amal and Peter, this hip dive bar and restaurant is located in the heart of downtown Oranjestad (adjacent to San Francisco Catholic Cathedral). A side of their signature poutine (cheese curds over hand-cut fries) is a must with one of their burgers. A half pound of U.S. Angus beef serves as the foundation for their burger, with optional toppings like bacon, sautéed mushrooms, onion rings, pulled pork, and cheese.

www.alfiesinaruba.com



Chalo Burger

This food truck—with three locations, including Palm Beach—serves a Colombian-style burger. In Colombia, it's all about the sauce! The actual burger (handmade with a special seasoning) takes a back seat to a variety of sauces, most notably the pineapple sauce, as well as lots of cheese, bacon, and potato sticks.

[@chaloburgeraruba on Facebook](#)

Local Store

What was once one of the island's cherished rum shops in Palm Beach is now home to Local Store, a family-owned bar and restaurant. Their menu includes both traditional and over-the-top burgers—even the names are cool: Chubato, Black & Blue, Rum Shop, and 3 Alarm! We highly recommend a side of their famous funchi fries to go with your burger.

www.localstorearuba.com



Islander's Grill

Located adjacent to the pool on the grounds of La Cabana Beach Resort, this alfresco restaurant offers a classic American-style burger made with U.S. Angus beef and topped with traditional American cheese. You just might need a

bib for this one—it's that juicy!

www.lacabana.com



Mulligan's

You don't have to play a round of golf to enjoy this mammoth burger. Located in the clubhouse of The Links at Divi golf course (amazing views), Mulligan's offers the Backyard BBQ Burger, a half pound of USDA beef topped with onion rings, bacon, cheddar, and the house barbecue sauce.

www.mulligansaruba.com



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TAKE YOUR VACATION TO THE

Next Level

We've all had those fantasies of a high-end luxury vacation—VIP airport service, a private cabana on the beach, free-flowing complimentary champagne, tailor-made itineraries, and perfectly curated exclusive experiences. (Private cooking lessons from a professional chef? Yes, please!) But when you're vacationing in Aruba, these fantasies can easily become reality, with a number of island resorts and hotels offering concierge-level and VIP services that elevate and enrich the guest experience. Here we've highlighted some of our favorite luxury offerings on Aruba, all creatively and painstakingly designed to celebrate unparalleled indulgence and make the seemingly unobtainable, attainable.



The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba's Club Level

With an already impressive standard level of service, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has set the bar exceptionally high for its Club Level offering, but the Palm Beach resident executes this luxury service with style and grace. Located on the hotel's 7th floor, the Club Level features beautifully appointed guest rooms and an exclusive Club Lounge with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Palm Beach and the gorgeous Caribbean Sea. Club Level members can graze all day long on the five food presentations offered daily at the lounge, including breakfast, lunch, midday snacks, hors d'oeuvres, and handcrafted desserts and cordials. Also available are superb selections of still and sparkling wines, liqueurs, beers, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages. Local treats like pastechi, coconut rum cake, and the island's signature Aruba Ariba cocktail make special appearances throughout the week.

Club Level members can also look forward to daily activities like meeting local artists, coffee tastings, wine tastings, and enjoying live cocktail stations. Exclusive activities include mixology classes and cozying up to the new Bloody Mary Bar at the Club Lounge. Meanwhile, kids can enjoy the constantly refreshed candy and cookie jars, as well as board games and other entertainment. Other Club Level perks include a dedicated concierge who can assist with anything guests need during their stay, complimentary Wi-Fi access in the Club Lounge, and assistance with reservations and airport transfers. Clearly, the Club Level experience is a true gem that couples, families, and business travelers can take advantage of to make their stay in Aruba that much more unforgettable.



Honeymoon Like a Celebrity at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Having been named by TripAdvisor as one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World and the No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort does honeymoons right. And now, the adults-only boutique hotel is upping the ante with its new Honeymoon Like a Celebrity service, offering newlyweds A-list treatment from wheels down to wheels up.

The moment honeymooners don their sunglasses and step off the plane upon arrival to One Happy Island, they are met at the jetway by their personal assistant. Whisked away to a private lounge reserved exclusively for government ministers and VIP guests of Bucuti & Tara, couples are welcomed with champagne and left to relax as their greeter gathers their luggage. The newlyweds are then escorted to the front of the immigration and border checkpoint, then immediately met curbside by their private luxury sedan for the five-mile ride to Bucuti & Tara on Eagle Beach.

Upon arrival at the resort, the honeymooners meet with their romance concierge, who has already helped them plan their dream vacation prior to their arrival on the island. The romance concierge will organize any level of planning, from arranging a full itinerary of daily activities, cultural experiences, and reservations to providing island insider tips—they can even help plan intricate romantic surprises! The Honeymoon Like a Celebrity service extends all the way to the couple's departure from the island with private car service followed by expedited check-in, security, and immigration and customs. They can also enjoy private lounge service prior to boarding.

Bucuti's owner and CEO, Ewald Biemans, points out that the new service is not exclusively for honeymooners, but for any couple planning a once-in-a-lifetime romantic celebration, like a milestone anniversary or engagement trip. He adds, "Whether couples are honeymooners or simply yearn to feel like honeymooners all over again, they are welcome to select our new romantic offering."



Fresh off their flight, the couple is met by their personal assistant at the jetway and then whisked away to a secluded, private lounge.



A luxury sedan with Bucuti & Tara's "Just Married" sign provides a classy arrival for newlyweds as they enjoy private travel to the resort.



Couples using the Honeymoon Like a Celebrity add-on service receive exclusive access to the Aruba airport's private lounge normally reserved for government officials.

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Lover's Island Overnight Package by Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino

Known for its private island exclusive to hotel guests, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino has introduced one of the most exclusive experiences in the Caribbean—the Lover's Island Overnight Package. For the first time ever, couples can spend the night in complete seclusion and serenity overlooking the Caribbean Sea in a luxurious cabana transformed into an unexpected lovers' suite.

This extraordinary offering begins when

couples are whisked away by private boat from the hotel's dock and greeted at the vacated island with champagne and a butler. A four-course culinary experience on Iguana Beach is curated according to the couple's preferences and served with wine and music of their choice. Once the sun sets in the pair's personalized paradise, the butler will escort couples by candlelight to Flamingo Beach for the grand finale—two cabanas perched on the water's edge that have been converted into elaborate overnight accommodations. The living area provides a small speaker, picnic basket filled with late-night snacks, cooler stocked with drinks, and an assortment of

other amenities. Soft twinkling lights strung from the ceiling and lavish lanterns lining the floor create the perfect setting for a romantic affair. A bonfire on the peninsula overlooking the sea beckons the couple to roast marshmallows while listening to the waves crash. Couples will end their perfect stay on the private island the next morning with an exclusive sunrise breakfast at Papagayo Bar & Grill.

*Those looking to really bask in ultimate luxury can pair their package with a unique spa experience—either the Sunset Romance treatment or the Caribbean Morning treatment—at the private island's Spa Cove. 

Hadrey Gallery

OPENS AT THE HOLIDAY INN

General Manager Kevin Anderson, Marketing & PR Director Eva Ruiz, Associate Director of Sales Luigi Wix, and Director of Food & Beverage Harmen Gieske hosted a tropical gathering in the Holiday Inn's courtyard in honor of the resort's upcoming 50th anniversary. Party invitees included longtime resort employees, press members, and the Aruba Tourism Authority's CEO, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes.

The Holiday Inn will be 50 on October 22, 2019, and the resort is planning a series of festivities involving the community, guests, and the resort's industry partners. The opening of the Hadrey Gallery at the resort marked the first event. Three lobby walls received a photo installation, two featuring nostalgic images of the resort over the years and one wall featuring professionally taken photographs of the resort's loyal veteran employees, including Irma Romney, who has been working uninterruptedly for 46 years.

The Hadrey Gallery derived its name from the Papiamentu word "hadrei," which refers to the living space of traditional Aruban cunucu houses. Just as the owners of cunucu homes welcomed their guests in, the Holiday Inn welcomes guests to travel back in time and look at the resort in its different incarnations as depicted in the gallery.

The Holiday Inn in Aruba has maintained a steady presence on the island for five decades—same name, same logo—while other hotels rebranded over time, and the chain, standing for "America, Motherhood & Apple Pie," has remained a constant on our tourism landscape.





With 590 rooms, the resort now has the most diverse array of offerings, a mix of all-inclusive and EP, in a great number of categories, in many markets, with something for everyone, maintaining a solid three-star-PLUS rating and an enviable average daily rate in comparison to the chain's other regional properties. T



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Finding Peace at Faye Ranch

Aruba's First Equine Sanctuary

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Steve Keith



It's 8 am on a Monday morning. Christopher is in the kitchen chopping apples and carrots. Didi and I are on poop patrol, navigating the wheelbarrow along the trails that wind around several hectares of land in the Bringamosa area that comprise Faye Ranch, scooping piles of manure as we go. Frederique deposits bales of hay in the assorted feeding boxes strategically placed along the trails. This is how I've been starting my Monday mornings for the past few months.

I'm a volunteer at Faye Ranch, the island's first equine sanctuary for retired, abused, or injured horses that can no longer carry riders on tours. No more saddles, no more bits in their mouths, no more metal shoes pounded into their hooves—just quality, healthy food, room to roam, medical care, therapeutic massages, and most important, lots of love. The muscle behind Equine Sanctuary Aruba (ESA) is founder Frederique Drost, who has opened up her home—literally—to these beautiful beasts.



ESA is a foundation in its infancy, following corporate governance standards with a knowledgeable board to oversee the foundation, an established daily protocol for management and volunteers, and financial and governance ethics reviewed by a certified accountant, with financial statements to be published yearly on the ranch's website.

For now, the ranch runs with the help of volunteers and donations, with Frederique devoting her home and time 24/7 to her equine residents, along with four adopted cunucu dogs and a flock of chubby domesticated chickens that curiously love to be held and cuddled.



VOLUNTEERING

The first two horses enjoying their retirement at Faye Ranch are Rock and Roll, aka Rocky, and Principe, called Prince for short. Rocky is a sweet-natured former trail horse suffering from severe hoof problems, which are carefully tended by Frederique, who is an equine hoof-care specialist by profession. Prince, a regal gelding that was once fast and commanding, has debilitating issues with his left hip, but is now receiving myofascial release massages from local professional therapist Dee Lev. An important component of rehabilitation for these horses is walking. They are bridled (without a bit) and taken for walks into Arikok National Park

"Within the pasture, we promote the growth of native plants to provide food and shelter for Aruba's local wildlife. We try to keep a balance between nature and animal; this means we maintain at least a one-acre-per-horse ratio, as too many horses will destroy nature. We create piles of bushes and try to grow a diversity of local vegetation. Together with a local beekeeper, we keep beehives, insect-eating birds, and chickens—all animals that help us manage mosquito and fly populations without using pesticides or herbicides."



Amuse CATERING

By the owners of Amuse Sunset Restaurant

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(the ranch is located just outside of the park). This is my favorite part of my volunteer duties. Prince is my walking buddy, and our time spent together is also therapeutic for me. My soul has come to crave these early-morning strolls through the quiet countryside, and although Prince can be a bit stubborn at the start of the walks, he settles into a steady pace, walking side-by-side with me, enjoying the scenery, freedom, and companionship. I like to think he feels the same surge of feel-good hormones that I receive during our time together in nature. The sanctuary is implementing a special program for children with autism, who get to interact with the horses, promoting a healing communication opportunity. Turns out horses are not the only ones finding peace at Faye Ranch—it brings therapy and a sense of well-being to us humans too!

The majority of funding for Faye Ranch comes from Frederique and her husband, Olivier. Please visit the website at equinesanctuary.weebly.com for information on how you can donate or volunteer. ¶



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Buy Local

Skip the mass-produced souvenirs made in China—take a piece of authentic Aruban art home with you!



Renaissance Marketplace

Travelers are increasingly interested in taking home a genuine slice of the places they visit in the form of locally produced arts and crafts. Perceiving this growing trend, Foundation ARUBA (Artisans Recognized & United by Aruba) is a matchmaker of sorts, organizing craft markets where visitors to Aruba can admire and purchase items that are handmade by local artisans.

Board members Gaby, Tya, and Wendy are longtime friends and artisans themselves. They started making glass beads together in 2010, organizing parties at home to present their work to family and friends. The home venue proved too small, however, when they began to reach more people and attract more artisans to participate in their craft soirees. While searching for other local artisans, they were impressed with the overwhelming talent hidden on the island. Seeing a clear need for a strong platform for the development, recognition, and promotion of local handmade crafts, the ambitious trio gave birth to Foundation ARUBA, which welcomes anyone on the island who is passionate about creating crafts to join.

The first event Foundation ARUBA organized was a charming open-air Christmas fair at Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad. Around 30 artisans participated, making it a huge success. From that moment on, Foundation



LOCAL ART

ARUBA really took off, and for six years now, it has been organizing events and weekly local markets where artisans can showcase and sell their products directly to tourists and the local community. The foundation has also opened two local crafts stores, one located just outside Oranjestad's cruise terminal and the other at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino. Artisans who joined the foundation are proudly operating these stores.



Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino



Foundation ARUBA board members Gaby, Tya, and Wendy





Buy Local!

Take an authentic piece of Aruba home with you.

Every week, a variety of affiliated local artisans present their works at these pop-up craft markets:

BUCUTI & TARA BEACH RESORT
Monday 4:30pm to 6:30pm

ARUBA MARRIOTT RESORT & STELLARIS CASINO
Tuesday & Thursday 6:00pm to 9:30pm


RENAISSANCE MARKETPLACE
Friday 7:00pm to 10:00pm

FOLLOW US Art & Craft Aruba handmadeinaruba



Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Supported by the hotel authorities, the foundation organizes weekly events at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort (every Monday from 4:30 pm till 6:30 pm) and Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad (every Friday from 7 pm till 10 pm). Every Tuesday and Thursday, the foundation's artisans set up shop at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino from 6 pm till 9 pm.

With more than 60 members, among them 35 especially active ones, the foundation creates monthly schedules to give island guests the chance to meet as many of the artisans as possible, enjoy their talent and creativity, and feel the love for what they do in every piece. Foundation ARUBA is always on the lookout for more opportunities to promote and stimulate local crafts and represent Aruba "as a product." Follow Foundation ARUBA on Facebook and Instagram, or contact them at foundationaruba@gmail.com. 



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Ranchi de Cuba

Celebrates Three Decades of KOMA Models

Text by Rona Coster

Local fashion guru Ronchi de Cuba just concluded celebrating three decades of creativity on the island. The community was treated to some special events during the September anniversary.

Back in 1989, Ronchi was a college dropout; he managed to stay in design school for just one week, he says, but hated it and came back home to Aruba. He hung out with some local fashionista friends—two girls with runway experience—and together they decided to put on a fashion show, forming the heart of what would become KOMA Models. The girls went on to have different professional careers, but both are remembered with gratitude for their part in that life-changing moment.

Over the past 30 years, more than 5,000 young Arubans have gone through Ronchi de Cuba's modeling courses, which could be best described as the island's equivalent to finishing-school classes. Remember those old-fashioned establishments teaching social graces and upper-class cultural rites? Only here at KOMA Models, the curriculum runs





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SPECIAL FEATURE

deeper, polishing raw gems, peeling outer layers to reveal greatness, and molding and directing students from all walks of life under a fashionista umbrella.

Today, Ronchi's graduates are everywhere in the job market and in social circles. They are self-assured, beautifully turned-out men and women, having had their self-esteem and self-worth boosted at Ronchi's modeling agency.

Known as Knockout first and KOMA Models later, the agency was among the first in the region to be totally inclusive, welcoming students regardless of body shape, size, skin color, and age. Because Ronchi so fervently believes that everyone is unique, special, and deserving of a spot in the limelight, KOMA Models has room for everyone. At an audition we recently attended to scout models for an *Island Temptations* shoot, the models we saw practicing their walks varied between the ages of 13 and 66 and ranged in size from 0 to 20. What they





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Ronchi is joined by several of his current and past models

all had in common was great makeup and graceful poise.

In 1993, five years into shows and modeling courses, Ronchi went back to school to the Institute of Fine Art and Design in Miami to finish his degree. He was ready.


Over the years, KOMA Models has produced countless shows and six seasons of a reality show on TeleAruba. Looking at old photographs and videos, Ronchi realizes that many of his productions were ahead of their time, both cutting-edge and fashion-forward. “But I also sometimes wonder,” he adds, “what I was thinking.” At the end of his third decade in fashion, having worked the “crazy” out of his system, he feels he is more balanced—still fashion-forward, but determined to keep it real.

The designer works under the Ronchi de Cuba label and the Solo by Ronchi label. Both brands are available at TRASH, Ronchi’s fashion boutique at



Ronchi de Cuba and his team of production professionals

Sibeliusstraat 8, Oranjestad, which also stocks on-trend, affordable fashions and a great selection of plus sizes. Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 7 pm. Phone: +297-582-6632.

KOMA Models: Established in 1989, the agency represents top male and female models on our island. Models are trained by the island's best model management team and represent a range of looks as diverse as our community. To see the range of models KOMA represents, go to www.komamodels.com or @komamodelsaruba on Instagram and Facebook. 



Ronchi was recently recognized for his contributions to Aruba's culture by Aruba Prime Minister Evelyn Wever Croes





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*White dress with silver buckle detail
by Amanda Uprichard
Jewelry from Uno de 50's My Luck collection*



RAGE Silver and Jolie Jewelry Boutique...

A Perfect Fashion Match



Local fashion maven Marny de l'Isle introduced the timeless beauty of silver jewelry to Aruba more than two decades ago when she opened her first RAGE Silver boutique. Curating a compilation of quality, collectible pieces offering affordable versatility, RAGE Silver quickly became a must-stop shop for local and visiting jewelry shoppers looking for distinctive pieces.

Recently, Marny parlayed her skills as a personal stylist into a new boutique offering complete looks, pairing chic basics with unique, trendy jewelry with an edge. Jolie Jewelry Boutique features Marny's hand-picked wardrobe foundation pieces inspired by big-city styles elegantly tempered with carefree island flair.

Island Temptations teamed up with Marny, who styled four complete looks featuring clothing pieces paired with new collections from Uno de 50, which only offers 50 pieces of each item worldwide. Shot on location near Aruba's iconic Alto Vista Chapel. 📍

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Palm Beach Plaza

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ragejewelry@gmail.com

Hair & Makeup: Indulgence by the Sea, located at the Divi Tamarijn Resort (+297-525-5200, ext 5291; www.spaaruba.com)

*Top, silk-printed camouflage jacket, and black
pants by Lola and Sophie
Jewelry from Uno de 50's My Energy collection*





*Lipstick-red bow-tie top by
Amanda Uprichard
Jewelry by Uno de 50's My Luck collection*



*Purple top by Lola and Sophie; black vegan leather jogger by David Lerner
Jewelry by Uno de 50's My Luck collection and core "Oro" collection*

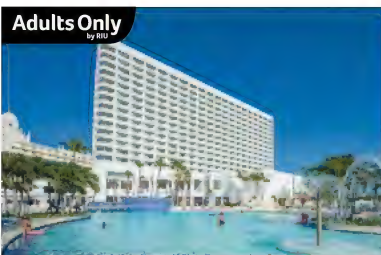


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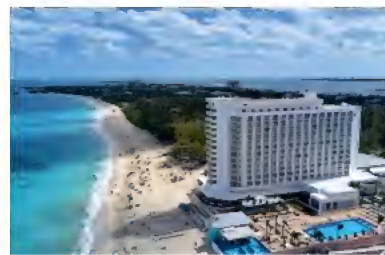
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The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba Brings

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by David Troeger
with Jetlag Creative Studio

Pure Elegance to a Dream Destination Wedding



When couple Courtney Hubbard and Nicholas Alberino first visited Aruba in March of 2017, they stayed at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, and you could say that it was love at first sight. “From the moment we got there, we absolutely fell in love. I remember eating sushi on the outside upstairs balcony and I said to Nick, ‘I love this place—we are getting married here.’ That was prior to him even proposing, so I guess I spoke it into existence,” bantered the bride. The couple exclaimed, “We are literally the happiest when we are staying at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba!”

Recently, the couple indeed chose to celebrate their destination wedding here at The Ritz-Carlton,

Aruba, bringing their vision of pure elegance to life with the help of the wedding and events team at the resort and creative local vendors.

Special touches

- Thousands of white roses decorated both the ceremony and reception.
- A personalized acrylic name place tag was created for each guest.
- Two grand-scale LED screens played a nonstop reel of cherished pictures and videos of family and friends throughout the reception.
- A decadent 16-foot sweets table featured more than 20 delightful dessert offerings.

- The ceremony aisle runner, dance floor, and sweetheart table were custom-made for the event.
- The resort’s ballroom was given a more intimate feel with ceiling and wall draping enhanced by uplighting.
- A lounge area was set up in the ballroom to allow guests to relax and chill at any point during the reception.
- A “Happily Ever Alberino” photo booth was set up just outside the ballroom entrance for guests to enjoy.







Contributing local vendors

Shar's Flowers

Elite Productions

Local wedding officiant Andy Osborne

A message from the couple


Aruba is truly "One Happy Island," and we are so happy that our friends and family were able to experience that with us. Everyone there is so kind and welcoming—it makes you feel like you're at home. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba treated us with such professionalism and unbelievable hospitality, and we are so thankful for all the amazing memories made there. We would 100% recommend having your wedding, event, or vacation at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, and we can't wait to come back in a couple of months!



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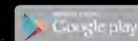
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Romance on a Summer's Eve

A local couple celebrates their union in the gardens of Papiamento Restaurant's historic manor

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick
Photography by Jonathan Petit & Michael Fowler

A ruba's beaches are some of the most popular in the Caribbean for destination weddings, but the island also boasts enchanting venues that bring unique, local authenticity to wedding events. One of our favorites is Papiamento Restaurant's historic manor and gardens. Local couple Tristan and Nunette Every felt a special connection to the space as well, choosing to host their wedding reception there.



SPECIAL VENUES

“We always envisioned an outdoor wedding that felt more like a garden party on a summer night,” shared the couple, “and Papiamento’s lush tropical gardens with big trees provided a unique and magical setting for our wedding.”

Papiamento Restaurant is owned and operated by the Ellis family, who has been sharing their 126-year-old home with visitors for decades. Chef Eduard Ellis serves upscale local cuisine with a gourmet twist, as well as regional and international cuisine. Tristan and Nunette felt the venue’s synergetic mix of historic, rustic, and romantic elements was perfect for their special day. Chef Eduard tailored a menu just for them, based on some of their favorite foods combined with a selection of traditional, local dishes. “Eduard and his team treated us like family and really allowed us to bring our vision to life.”



Island Life

Aruba's Best-Kept Diary

— SELECTION OF COLUMNS FROM 1992 - 2004 —

By Rona Coster



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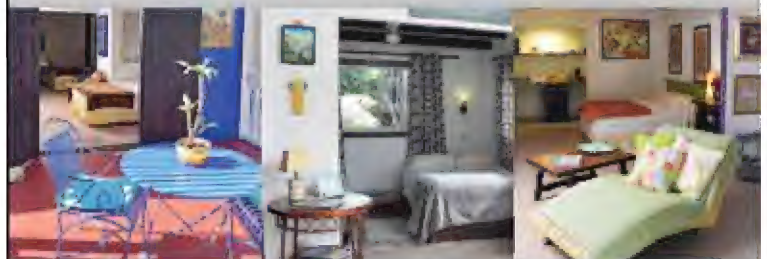


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Okeanos Spa is located at Renaissance Mall,
Oranjestad City Center.

For information, call 297.583.6000 ext 6176
or visit renaissancearubaspaspa.com.

Like us on [Facebook.com/OkeanosSpa](https://www.facebook.com/OkeanosSpa)

Isn't It Romantic?

| Text by Debbie Kunder



T

here are plenty of good reasons why dining on the beach is considered such a special treat—the soft sand between your toes, the rustling palms, the gently lapping waves, the warm light of the tiki torches, and the cool, hair-ruffling breezes. Add delicious cuisine and a great bottle of wine, and you have an idyllic romantic dinner experience to share with your special someone. Of course, with its award-winning beaches—and world-class cuisine—Aruba is the perfect destination to enjoy romantic dining on the Caribbean's shore. Here, three island restaurants that offer that quintessential beach dining experience you and your partner will remember for years to come.



Romantic Beach Dining at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

With Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort heralded as the Caribbean's most romantic hotel by TripAdvisor, it's no surprise that it offers an intimate, romantic dining experience in the sands just beyond its widely acclaimed Elements restaurant. Attentive waiters provide solicitous service under a private cabana on the beach boasting a fabulous ocean view and a romantic sunset or moonlit ambiance. Bucuti's powdery white beach, the swaying palms, and subtle candle lighting ensure that magic is in the air. The experience is rather exclusive, with only four cabanas available and only two seatings per night. The special six-course dinner, including complimentary wine or champagne, is prepared by Elements' renowned kitchen, and dietary restrictions are accommodated with a vegan/vegetarian menu as well as a gluten-free menu.



Atardi

Executive Chef Romeo Penacino brings a wealth of international experience to the table, literally, at Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino's Atardi restaurant. This "pop-up" restaurant is set up on Palm Beach every day in the late afternoon when the crowds disperse, giving it its name, which means "late afternoon" in the local language of Papiamentu. Located just steps from the sea, Atardi specializes in fresh seafood, often caught in the nearby waters. The Macadamia Grouper is one of Atardi's most popular dishes, along with lobster tail, sea bass, and more. Couples are invited to kick off their shoes and go toes-in-the-sand as they enjoy the refined yet relaxing experience perfectly curated by the Marriott team.

Passions on the Beach

Located across from the charming Amsterdam Manor, Passions on the Beach showcases the pristine beauty of Eagle Beach, which was named the best beach in the Caribbean and #3 in the world by TripAdvisor in 2019. Early birds can catch one of the island's enchanting sunsets while late-night diners can sup under the twinkling stars. Diners are invited to indulge in the freshest island flavors highlighted in dishes that feature the highest-quality meats and irresistible seafood. An expansive wine selection and signature cocktails add a festive kick to the evening while decadent desserts serve as that perfect sweet ending. Passions on the Beach is the ideal place for any couple looking to celebrate love and romance, and it's also a popular venue for wedding parties and other special events. 🍷

An advertisement for Splash 'n Dash car wash in Aruba. The top left shows a hand washing a car with a red cloth. The top right shows a car being washed with a red brush. The bottom left shows a white car being washed. The bottom right shows a map of the location. The text includes: "THE ONLY DRIVE-THRU CAR WASH IN ARUBA", "CLEAN CAR READY IN LESS THAN 8 MINUTES", "MOST CONVENIENT", "STARTING AT \$11", "HIGH RISE HOTELS", "SUPERFOOD PLAZA", "TEXACO SASAKI", "LOW RISE HOTELS", "Red Fish", "Splash 'n Dash", and "www.facebook.com/splashndasharuba/".

THE ONLY DRIVE-THRU CAR WASH IN ARUBA

CLEAN CAR READY IN LESS THAN 8 MINUTES

MOST CONVENIENT

STARTING AT \$11

HIGH RISE HOTELS

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TEXACO SASAKI

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Red Fish

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Romance on the Go!



*Y*ou are vacationing on an island paradise—the ideal canvas for romance! Sultry sunsets, dreamy starlit skies, breakfast on your balcony overlooking the Caribbean Sea...it all just oozes amore. But for those who like to put a little adventure into their vacation and enjoy activities and experiences together, there are plenty of adventures awaiting the two of you! We've picked out three of our favorite island adventures that take you on the water, under the water, and on the road to uniquely experience Aruba.





De Palm Pleasure

Set sail on De Palm Pleasure, a spacious 70-foot catamaran, and enjoy a breezy cruise skirting the breathtaking coastline. Morning and afternoon cruises make several stops at some of Aruba's best snorkeling spots, where the two of you can explore reefs and a shipwreck together. Late afternoon cruises give couples a front-row seat to impossibly perfect sunsets!

To book your sailing adventure, visit the website at www.depalmtours.com. Follow them on Facebook at @DePalmToursAruba and Instagram at @depalmtoursaruba.

Passions on the Beach

Visitors of all ages are welcome to experience their lunch and dinner on the beach while listening to the soothing sound of the gentle waves caressing the shore.

LUNCH: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

HAPPY HOUR: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

DINNER: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

| Located on Eagle Beach in front of the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort |

| For menu and reservations: www.amsterdammanor.com/dining |

| +297 527 1118 | concierge@amsterdammanor.aw | www.OpenTable.com |



Seabob Aruba

Transport yourselves to the colorful underwater world of the Caribbean Sea. The Seabob vehicle is a technically advanced, eco-friendly scooter that moves both on and under the water. Propelled by a pollution-free electric stream power system, Seabob allows you to move 22 km/h on water and dive down to depths as far as 40 meters at the speed of 16 km/h. The two of you can explore gorgeous reefs along Malmok, Boca Catalina, and Arashi, and even discover the Antilla shipwreck. This tour is definitely a monumental memory-maker! Visit Seabob Aruba's website at www.seabobaruba.com. Follow them on Facebook at @seabobaruba and Instagram at @seabobaruba_official.




Wine on Down the Road with Kukoo Kunuku

There's no better way to sample Aruba's culinary scene than this foodie tour on the famous Kukoo Kunuku bus. The Wine on Down the Road tour consists of a carefully curated itinerary combining taste plates from four of Aruba's top culinary hot spots with carefully chosen wines selected by your onboard sommelier. It's the ideal way to taste Aruba together.

To book this tour or any of the other Kukoo Kunuku adventures, visit the website at www.kukookunuku.com. Follow them on Facebook at @Kukookunuku and on Instagram at @kukookunukuaruba. 🇮🇸

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LUNCH: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

HAPPY HOUR: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

DINNER: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

| Located at the MVC Eagle Beach Resort |

| For menu and reservations: www.mvceaglebeach.com |

| +297 527 1118 | concierge@amsterdammanor.aw | www.OpenTable.com |



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A PROUD SUPPORTER OF ARUBA'S BLUES, BREWS, BOURBON & BBQ EVENTS

Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ

Rockin' the Island's Pop-Up Scene

Photography by Julien de Bats

T

his past September, Aruba's first Blues, Brews, Bourbon & Barbecue pop-up was held at Heart Music Bar. The event was a collaboration of several local businesses that teamed up to present a unique evening of fab food and drinks combined with live music at a dynamic venue with both indoor and outdoor settings.

Hollywood Smokehouse, the island's first low-and-slow barbecue restaurant (now operating for pop-ups, special events, and catering), partnered with Divino, local distributor of Abita Beer and High West Bourbon, and the award-winning bartenders from Apotheek. Hollywood served their famous pulled pork, beef brisket, vegan tacos, and Tex-Mex rice bowls, which paired perfectly with Abita's Andygator and Maison Blanc craft beers and bourbon craft cocktails created by Apotheek.





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While the crowd of more than 300 sipped and noshed, Blackberry Jam, a local blues and rock band, kept the crowd entertained and dancing all night.

Stay tuned for more pop-up collaborations in 2020! 📺



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The New Hyatt Place Aruba Airport

A Stylish Addition to the Island's Hospitality



Debuting in late 2019, the Hyatt Place Aruba Airport boasts the island's most centric locale presented with a fresh and modern approach to airport accommodations. Located just steps away from the Queen Beatrix International Airport, Hyatt Place brings travelers—whether for vacation or business—luxury amenities, including a welcoming and cozy lobby bar, as well as a modern rooftop pool surrounded by a sophisticated lounge and pool bar with a unique fire feature ideal for casual gatherings, social events,

or romantic interludes. The property offers dynamic meeting spaces promising flexibility and intriguing design features, including one with welcoming natural light and enticing views of the airport and the scenic downtown port area.

And those rooms! Incredibly spacious and well-appointed guest rooms promote comfort and relaxation. A variety of shops, an on-site bank, a multi-cuisine food court, and a 24/7 fitness center add to the modern conveniences of the Hyatt

Place Airport Aruba. Guests ready to discover the island will enjoy convenient access to the shops, restaurants, and attractions of downtown Oranjestad (just a three-minute drive away), as well as the island's Linear Park and Surfside Beach & Marina. Notably, Hyatt Place is the closest major hotel to the laid-back southern side of the island, where authentic local culture comes to life through quaint fishing villages, art galleries, museums, and quiet beaches. ¹¹



Your Lifeline to Aruba

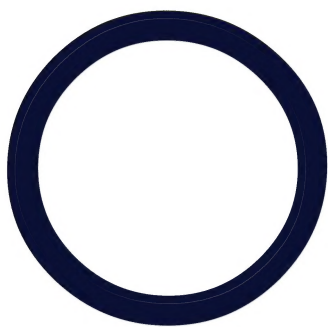
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